

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 3, 4, and 14-16 are cancelled.

Claims 1-2, 5-13 and 17-18 are pending and under consideration.

II. CLAIMS 1-5, 7-18 ARE REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(A) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER WANG ET AL. (WANG) (US PATENT NO. 6,826,613 b1), AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF BENTLEY ET AL. (BENTLEY) (US PATENT NO. 5,537,404)

Claim 1:

Claim 1 is amended to include similar features to those in cancelled claims 3-4.

Neither Wang nor Bentley describe, a memory device for reading device information from the new device and storing the device information, and an application layer circuit for sending one of the device information to the host based on the device information, which is prestored, and for controlling data transfer between the first physical layer circuit and the second physical layer circuit via the link layer as recited in currently amended claim 1 of the present application.

Rather, Wang describes a circuit (logic to process) 224 for performing device selection and data alteration for the client side input processor 222 and the switch fabric 226. Furthermore, Bentley describes a reconnect manager 52 for attempting to obtain a channel connection between the layer 2' and the layer 1 based on a condition of a B-channel in response to a request from each stack including layers 2'-7.

The above arguments are specifically directed to currently amended claim 1. However, it is respectfully submitted that the arguments would be helpful for understanding various differences of various other claims (e.g. claim 9).

Claim 6:

Claim 6 was rejected as being unpatentable over Wang et al. and Bentley et al., and further in view of Minakuchi et al. (US2001/0002365 A1). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Because currently amended claim 6 depends from currently amended claim 1 and none of Wang et al., Bentley et al., and Minakuchi et al. describe the features recited in currently amended claim 6, this claim is patentable for at least the same reasons that currently amended claim 1 is patentable.

Claim 12:

Neither Wang nor Bentley describe, a memory device having a memory for reading device information from a new device when connected to a device physical layer circuit and storing the device information, and an application layer circuit which sends device information for a device from the memory through the network physical layer circuit to the host in accordance with the device connected by the switch to a device physical layer circuit, wherein the application layer circuit selectively provides data, which is transferred from the host, to the devices through the device physical layer circuits and link layer circuit in accordance with requests from the host.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. CLAIM 6 IS REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(A) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER WANG AND BENTLEY AS APPLIED TO CLAIM 1 ABOVE, AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF MINAKUCHI ET AL. (MINAKUCHI) (US 2001/0002365A1)

Claim 6 is indirectly dependent from currently amended claim 1.

Accordingly, the above comments regarding currently amended claim 1 for distinguishing over Wang in view of Bentley also apply hereto, where appropriate.

IV. CONCLUSION

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

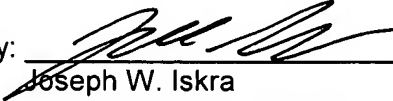
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If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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